



Nicole Hovertsz Returns

Aruba has a new national heroine in Nicole Hovertsz, lawyer and sports activist, who has just been elected to the International Olympic Committee, making her one of only fourteen women in the Olympic governing body of 115.

The elections took place in Turin, Italy during the 118th session of the International Olympic Committee, during which time a new member to the ten man governing board was elected, and Beatrice Allen, vice president of the Olympic committee of Gambia was elected to the committee. She and Nicole were the only two women of five candidates, and their election to the IOC is another step forward for women in sport. IOC members are the IOC's representatives in their respective countries, and not their countries' delegates within the IOC. They are men and women who have competed in the Olympic Games, are captains of industry or representatives from the worlds of sport and business. They are all volunteers.

IOC members meet once a year at a general assembly, or Session, the supreme body of the organization. At these Sessions, the members take decisions concerning the institution and the Olympic Games, such as the choice of host cities of the Games, changes to the Olympic Charter, electing the IOC President, Vice-Presidents and Executive Board members, and co-opting new members

Nicole, who represented Aruba in the 1984 Olympics in swimming competitions, is the secretary-general of the national Olympic Committee of Aruba, (COA), has been a president of the Pan American Women and Sport Working Committee and held many other positions with various sports organizations. Her life-long devotion to promoting healthy pastimes and sport amongst the island's youth has made her a well-known and beloved figure on Aruba, and all islanders feel great pride that she has earned this international honor. It was a triumphant return to Aruba for Nicole on Wednesday evening, greeted by the Minister of Culture and Sport, the Honorable Ramon Lee, Leo Maduro, President of the Committee Olimpico Arubaanse (COA) and her father, John Hovertsz. Aside from all her family, an army of admirers filled the arrivals hall of the Reina Beatrix Airport to congratulate Nicole and commend her for the recognition she has won for a life dedicated to integrity and accomplishment in not only sports, and for the honor she has brought to her homeland.

It was an exciting and moving moment as Nicole exited the airport holding area to accept flowers from young future Olympians, and it was broadcast live on local television. Congratulations, Nicole!